

for want of something better, might be compared with the song of the Parula Warbler, a short buzzing trill rising in the scale, much louder and less lispy than the song of the Parula. The songs were each of about one second duration, rendered approximately eight or ten times per minute. Altogether the performance was quite musical, in sweetness far above the average warbler song. These two songs were generally alternated with clock-like regularity, though occasionally the bird preferred to dwell upon one or other of his selections for the greater part of the day. Like the Blackpoll Warbler and some others, the beak was opened very wide while singing, a great help in connecting bird and song.

The fact that the bird was so closely confined to a very restricted area gave us great hope of finding a nest, which hope, however, was not realized. Neither did we succeed in identifying a female, but on the 27th of June, the day before we were obliged to leave, our bird was seen carrying food in his beak, which was rather good circumstantial evidence that the Cerulean Warbler was breeding in the Catskills.—S. HARMSTED CHUBB, *New York City*.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*) Nesting in Rhode Island.

—On August 1 I arrived for a few weeks stay in Bristol, R. I., and at once was attracted by the notes of a Carolina Wren from a swampy thicket behind the house on Metacom Avenue where I was living. On August 2 I secured a glimpse of both parents and one of the young. This is, I believe, the second record for this species in Bristol, and the fifth for the State, though I have not followed the avifauna of the State for twenty years, and other records may have been made.—R. HEBER HOWE, JR., *Thoreau Museum of Natural History, Concord, Mass.*

A Short-billed Marsh Wren Colony in Central New Hampshire.—

On July 17, 1919, I found a small colony of *Cistothorus stellaris*, probably not numbering over six pairs, in a small and not very wet meadow in Sandwich, N. H. The wrens were in full song. I saw two birds with food in their bills, but was unable to learn whether the young were in or out of the nest, for, although I found five nests, none was occupied, and one was built in 1918. The other four were all fresh made, and green as grass could make them, but were all "fake nests."

Their nests, as a rule, were set nearer the ground than the many nests of the species that I have found in Massachusetts; nor were they in hummocks, which may be explained by the fact that in this meadow there were no hummocks. Two or three of the nests were supported in part by narrow-leaved cat-tails, together with the usual fine grass, instead of by fine grass exclusively, as is so often the case, particularly when a hummock is chosen for a site.

Scarcely more than two miles away, in a sphagnum swamp of mixed growth, where considerable spruce and less balsam grew, a Tennessee Warbler sang incessantly in the dead top of a maple.

This appears to be the most northern reported colony of *C. stellaris* in New Hampshire, while the Tennessee Warbler on the same date seems to be the most southern summer record of this species in the State.— JOHN A. FARLEY, *Malden, Mass.*

Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) in Alabama.— In 1891 Dr. William C. Avery recorded the capture, on October 4, 1888, of an adult male Red-breasted Nuthatch at Greensboro, Alabama (*Am. Field*, Vol. XXV, p. 55, January 17, 1891). As far as known to me, this is the only published record of the occurrence of the species within the State.

On January 30, 1919, I assisted Mr. Lewis S. Golsan in the capture of a male Red-breast about two miles east of Prattville, Alabama, in the wood-pasture of Mr. J. B. Golsan, and at the same time heard another individual calling in the pines near by.

Concerning this species Mr. Golsan writes that he collected a female at the same place on December 22, 1918, and that he saw and heard individuals there from that date until April 23, 1919. Mr. Golsan's actual sight records are as follows: December 22, 1918, one; January 30, 1919, one; February 13, one; March 16, four; March 23, two; April 6, three; April 14, two; April 17, two; April 21, one; April 23, one. The birds were heard almost daily in the pines near the barn lot by Mr. Golsan as he went about his work. A large part of their time was spent searching the cones of *Pinus palustris*, *P. echinata*, and *P. taeda*. Mr. Golsan estimates the number seen and taken at ten individuals.

It seems remarkable that this boreal bird should appear so far south during the mildest winter the entire country has experienced in years. Seldom severe, the late winter and early spring in central Alabama were exceptionally mild. Rather one would have expected Red-breasted Nuthatches here the previous winter, which was as rigorous as the one just past was element.

In this connection it seems worthy of note that though I observed numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches in the vicinity of Camp Upton, Long Island, during the past winter, and watched especially for Red-breasts, none were seen.— ERNEST G. HOLT, *Barachias, Alabama.*

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on Cape Cod.— On November 9, 1915, in Dennis, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, I saw a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila c. carulea*). The locality was about two miles from Cape Cod Bay. It was an Indian summer day with blue haze and a warm sun. The Gnatcatcher remained for a short time in a tangle of vines and blackberry bushes by a wall. As usual the little *Polioptila* was the embodiment of nervousness, a pent-up bit of feathered energy. It continually cocked its head and flirted its tail. Now and then it uttered its short, insect-like, unbird-like note. It was not shy.— JOHN A. FARLEY, *Malden, Mass.*

Strange Conduct of a Robin.— It may not be fair to the bird to report its conduct to the world ornithological, but an apparently perfectly good